

**BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Council Meeting: August 11, 2020**  
**Live Meeting – Fire Department Bay**



- **The August 11, 2020 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 6:30PM, in the Fire Department Bay observing social distancing.**

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Mr. Mikulich announced that the Council met for an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

- **Roll Call:**

Present: Mr. Cafarelli  
Mr. Dunn  
Mr. Flannery  
Mr. Gill  
Mrs. Miller  
Mr. Mikulich  
Mrs. Tessaro  
Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Interim Police Chief DeLuca, Chief Gottschalk and Solicitor Start was present via phone (speaker phone), Marilyn Sheleheda – Executive Assistant.

Absent: None.

- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry,
- **Pledge of Allegiance**

*Mr. Mikulich explained to the audience why he was not wearing a mask, he wanted to be sure everyone could hear him.*

*Mr. Mikulich also thanked Assistant Chief Donnie Larrick, Jordan Turner, Eddie Dzubak Jr. for helping to set up for the meeting today. He also explained personal matters were talked about in Executive Session. Talked about hiring a new Borough Manager which we talked about in July Executive Session with resumes and a second Executive Session in July with interviews. Today we discussed another personal issue and possible legal matters.*

- **Presentations - Heart & Soul Community Planning**

Steve Roberts and Felicia Mycyk briefly explained the function of the Heart & Soul Foundation, a Community Project. Kicked off in February but shut down because of pandemic. They're going have a more public meetings on Zoom. At the zoom meeting they had 35 participants. They will be reaching out to the community in September. they would like to have as many people in the community as they can. Felicia Mycyk spoke that she was excited to be a part of the heart and soul committee and want to let you know that they will be having public pop-up events coming up soon and they will use the Borough Parks. It's positive and exciting. They will social distance and ask people to bring they own chairs.

Mr. Roberts also stated that the Rotary Club has been raising money and they raised enough to put in new pavement and a pavilion that will be erected in the newest park on Merchant Street by Thursday – so enjoy the view.

Mrs. Mycyk also wanted to thank Mr. Mikulich for helping out the young group of kids between ages of 13 and 19 to be a part of the community. He showed them around the Borough Municipal Building and took time out of his day to explain about the functions of government and how the community works.

These kids were unaware of how to even get on a ballot. Mr Mikulich spent almost two hours of his time explaining what the Fire and Police Departments functions are and it was wonderful time.

*Mr. Mikulich explained that Mr. Start (the Solicitor) is out of town however he is available and listening to the meeting on Mr. Mikulich's cell phone.*

- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

Mrs. Boykins – 1004 Eleventh St in Ambridge. She had concerns about no street sweeping on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. She has been a resident in Ambridge for over 50 years. She states that this is her fifth time attending a meeting about the street sweeping on her St. She would like a reason why her street is not swept. She has been given several different reasons but none of them have ever materialized. She stated that she pays her taxes and would like her street swept on street sweeping days. There was some discussion concerning why 11<sup>th</sup> Street was not swept. Mr. Mikulich stated he spoke to Mr. Cafarelli and that street was to be swept but on occasional basis, not set schedule. He was under the impression that There was an agreement with the residents of there that they did not want the streets swept, but we were going to do it anyway. that there are some streets that do not get swept. Mr. Cafarelli and his committee over the next few months to see what can be done. By spring next year, we will have a solution for this problem. Mr. Cafarelli states that his committee will look into this situation. Discussion about maybe not to ticket (because it is not posted) just ask them to move their vehicles on sweeping days.

Doug McCombie (no address given) Stated he thinks the downtown area looks good. The building's getting remodeled good letters received we have to clean up the neighborhoods. The police need to be more present he appreciates would like to see more police presence on Maplewood and lower alley. He claims he went past the Police station on a Saturday night and all the cars were parked out front. The residents have cleaned their garages of the graffiti but after they clean it, the buildings just get painted up again. There are plenty of people that don't stop at the stop signs too. We would like to see police sitting at the stop signs on occasion. Now that the Sewickley Bridge is closed – from 4<sup>th</sup> St. to 11<sup>th</sup> St. on Maplewood is like why bother with stop signs. Also, we might think of getting no nonsense bars to slow the traffic down on Maplewood. The Mayor interjected how many tickets they have been giving out on Kennedy Dr. and Church St. for not stopping it stop signs. Mr. Mikulich states that police are very active, and he thinks the new police chief and the mayor are doing a great job as far as what we have and he commends them for the work that they do. Mayor states that the month of July they gave out 21 citations just in that area. The whole police department goes on traffic patrol.

*Mr. Mikulich wanted to take time to introduce the new interim police chief John DeLuca.*

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**June 9, 2020**

**No Minutes July 14, 2020 - Meeting Cancelled**

Mr. Flannery made the motion to accept the June minutes, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill *	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Miller, a roll call vote was taken:

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$ 97,589.59	Paid: \$36,103.07
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$435.00	Paid: \$ .00
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid:	.00
4. Escrow Fund	Unpaid:	.00
5. Police Pension Fund	Unpaid:	.00
6. Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid:	.00
7. Firemen's Pension Fund	Unpaid:	.00
8. Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid:	.00
9. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	Unpaid:	.00

Questions on the bills:

Mrs. Tessaro suggest a more detailed bill list could be sent to Council. Mr. Mikulich suggested to Mrs. Tessaro that all questions can be answered by calling the office before the meeting. Mr. Gill had a question concerning James Mann's union dues, why are we paying them. Mr. Mikulich stated we will check into it. Ms. Sheleheda stated that she is not sure, but she thinks Mr. Mann reimburses the Borough. Mr. Mikulich stated he is still a part of the Borough until the court ruling, he is in limbo, he has not received a paycheck since August of 2018. Mr. Mikulich stated we will look into this to make sure it is being done correctly. Mr. Gill also asked about the bill for ISV, if we knew what that was for. Police Chief stated that was Ibistek, they put the stickers on the new police car. Motion to accept the bills made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill *	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

**\*Mr. Gill voted yes with the understanding that we would check into his questions.**

- Consent Agenda:**

*Those matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of Council, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.*

**Motion to accept items 1 thru 4 as listed on the Consent Agenda; all were in favor.**

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report  
August 11, 2020  
Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis		
\$857,946.39	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-(August 11, 2020) -3:00 pm
\$109,172.69	All (including today's checks) Outstanding Checks as of:	-(August 11, 2020) -3:00 pm
<b>\$748,773.70</b>	<b>Available Balance as of:</b>	<b>-(August 11, 2020) -3:00 pm</b>

Totals that cleared the bank are as follows:																
General Fund Bank Summary:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><i>Deposits:</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$316,511.51</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><i>Debits:</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$273,308.05</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><i>-which include the following:</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>72</u> Checks</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$134,253.88</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2</u> Payroll (s)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$139,054.17</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Deposits:</i>		<b>\$316,511.51</b>	<i>Debits:</i>		<b>\$273,308.05</b>	<i>-which include the following:</i>			<u>72</u> Checks	\$134,253.88		<u>2</u> Payroll (s)	\$139,054.17	
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Other Fund Balances as of (August 11, 2020) 3:00 pm	
220.00	Ambridge Bicentennial 2024 Fund.
\$219.11	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$13,809.93	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$12,229.55	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$94,267.98	Grants/Special Funds
\$219,689.25	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$35,848.11	Recreation Fund
\$327,430.11	Sinking Fund
<b>\$703,714.04</b>	<b>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</b>

2. Authorize the placement of a dedicated-on street handicap parking space at *1626 Henrici St.* as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department
3. Authorized placement of a dedicated-on street handicap parking space at *432 Melrose Ave.* as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department
4. Grant a certification of appropriateness for a 4-foot fence in the rear of *286 15th St* as recommended by the historic architecture review board.

**IX: New Business**

- A. Consider action to Contract and Hire *Mario N. Leone Jr.* for the position of Borough Manager to begin September 8, 2020 until December 31, 2021.  
Mr. Gill made the motion and seconded by Mr. Cafarelli

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- B.** Consider action to authorize the execution of a master grant contract with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for future Certified Local Government funding that will last through December 31, 2024.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- C.** Consider action to appoint Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA) as the Borough's Interim Zoning Officer.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- D.** Consider action to hire *Leslie Basalyga* for the position of part-time Police Administrative Assistant to begin August 17, 2020 as recommended by the Mayor and Police Chief.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- E.** Consider action to authorize the disbursement of \$9,901.38 from the Special Project Fund to Youngblood Paving Inc. for Progress Payment No. 2 – Final for the 2019 Road Program.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, second by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- F.** Consider action to authorize the hiring of *Mr. Lucas Thompson* as a part-time patrolman, starting at the 2020 Step III wage.

Motion made Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gill.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- G.** Consider action to authorize eligibility list for the Ambridge Police Department.

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gill

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

Mr. Gill asked about the Civil Service Commission, Mr. Mikulich commented that Mr. Flannery has already contacted them, Mr. Flannery concurred that he has contacted them.

- H.** Authorize Payment for Feaster Pension Consulting, Inc. \$4,800.00 for the period covering January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Motion made by Mrs. Tessaro, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- I.** Authorize Payment for CIM Investment Management, Inc. \$11,714.47 for the period covering July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

- J.** Consider action to renew the School Resource Officer Agreement with the Ambridge Area School District for the 2020 – 2021 School Year.

Motion made by Mrs. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill*	yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

\*Mr. Gill asked that the motion be changed – motion amended to state “reflects current employment conditions” by Mr. Flannery, changes ok’d by Mrs. Miller to change motion.

- K.** Consider Authorizing the SRO (School Resource Office) for the Ambridge Area High School to attend 40-hour training in New Castle PA from August 31, 2020 through September 4, 2020.

Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

## **Committee Reports**

### *1. Public Safety Committee*

Mr. Flannery did not have written report only oral. They did not have a meeting – they want to meet with the new Borough Manager. He met with Ambridge Fire Dept. and he got an update on equipment and he will share more at the next Council meeting. One thing he wants to comment on is that the Fire Department wants to clean their own department area each week instead of the cleaning company to do it, and he asks that council back them up on this We can find out how it affects the contact with the cleaning company, but as of this date. there will be a slight cost for cleaning materials that they need. It was a very informative meeting. He will also get together with the Code Department an Mrs. Tessaro to have a meeting. Mr. Flannery also stated he did not have a meeting scheduled yet but he will be in touch.

Mr. Mikulich commented that there are 4 communities: Conway, Harmony Twp., Baden and Ambridge Fire Depts. received a FEMA Grant for radios to go from analog to digital. Beaver County Emergency Services are going to go digital and these 4 departments are jumping ahead a little bit. It’s a very expensive undertaking and this grant is equals almost \$500,000.00 each department received almost \$100,000.00 to update their radio communications. He wanted to congratulate the Fire Dept. and working so diligently with the other communities to get this grant. He also congratulated the Fire Dept. for getting the Covid-19 Grant that they went on their own to get. They received it in May which was approx. \$12,000.00.

Chief Gottschalk commented that they do not have a definite cause for the fire at Sukup Steel yet. They heard rumors that they are leaving Ambridge and what they told the Fire Dept is that they are planning to rebuild and stay in Ambridge, but they will relocate during the repairs.

Also the chief commented on a job well done by the Ambridge Fire Dept and the numerous other Fire Depts that answered the mutual aid call, it was a hot day and they all did a great job.

2. *Mayor's Report*

Mr. Mayor commented on the traffic problems – 8<sup>th</sup> and Kennedy, Church St and Maplewood. He stated about the cameras in 2 of the police cars and the officers training. Chief DeLuca added that during the month of August they have Narcan training. Officer's training on the camera as well. This should all be done by the end of August.

The Mayor added that he will have the drawing for the Shop 'n Save gift card tonight. They had a survey in the Water Authority bill concerning grocery store interest and he purchased a gift card out of his own pocket. They received over 1,100 responses from that survey. The committee is working hard to get a grocery store to come into Ambridge. He and Sharon Guerrieri went to see Representative Matzie for some help, they are planning to have a meeting with Aldi's people to see what can be done. Mr. Mikulich commented that when Aldi's bought out Bottom Dollar they would not talk to anyone about this grocery store because they didn't want the competition, the other thing our survey showed was there was not enough people in our area to sustain another grocery store. Mayor Drewnowski said that was 8 yrs. ago and things have changed. Aldi's said they cannot put another Aldi's there, but Aldi's and Trader Joe's are owned by the same company and according to Fox News – they are thriving.

3. *Code Committee*

Mrs. Tessaro has not had a committee meeting, but they will schedule one. The Code and Fire Dept inspectors are abiding by safety precautions including wearing masks and sanitizing before and after an inspection. Reminded people that garbage is not to be put out more than 24 hrs. prior to pick up. If anyone has questions, you can connect with our Boro website under the category of "new residents' info" – has info on street sweeping, trash pickup and recycling.

4. *Public Works Committee*

Street Sweeping is ongoing. Public Works has been picking up yard debris, and painting crosswalks, they have been filling potholes, the Borough electrician has been retrofitting streetlights with LEDs on Church Street. Repairs to some of the Merchant Street lights as well. The new Merchant Street park concrete pad and walkway will be completed prior to the new gazebo being installed. Public Works has been doing a temporary tree trimming on Merchant Street to have a clear view of stop signs and traffic signals. Troop banner program is still on going and they have been putting up the new banners.

5. *Parks and Recreation Committee*

Mrs. Miller states she had no formal meeting, but she will have a meeting when the new Borough Manager starts. Mr. Gill asked about Halloween plans. Mrs. Miller stated that the date is set by the Police Chief's Association and she has no further information.

6. Engineer's Report – No Engineer Report.

**X. Official Reports - Motion to accept Official Reports.**

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

**XI. Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Gill made the motion to look into the possibility of merging with other Police Departments that might be interested with the Borough of Ambridge. Seconded by Mrs. Tessaro. Mrs. Miller asked if it would just be a study, Mr. Gill replied yes.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes		President Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

*Motion Carried*

Mr. Gill asked about the Comcast Phone/Internet System at the Chamber's building. Mr. Mikulich said we were going to check into it, if it was there prior, we will get them to hook it back up. No one had any objections.

Mr. Gill also questioned the billboard on the boulevard, if the Borough owns those or not. Mr. Flannery suggested that it belongs to a company and the chamber sold advertising on it. Also Mr. Gill also suggested that our Council Meetings should be advertising on the billboard outside of the Fire Dept. Chief Gottschalk stated that John Ivancik handles that sign. Just notify him and he will put it on.

Mrs. Miller commented on the Larrick twins having a one-year birthday the next day.

Mr. Mikulich thanked the Fire Dept for allowing us to be here and for helping him set up for the meeting. If the public has not problem with the meetings being held in the Fire Dept. and how it was conducted, we can do this again September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**XII. Adjournment**

Mr. Flannery made the motion to adjourn – seconded by Mrs. Miller  
All in Favor – motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

Regular Meeting: 9/08/2020 – 6:30PM



